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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Increase of bed-strength and the employment of additional staff—both these matters are under consideration."

Number of officers belonging to backward classes in the Agriculture department.

* 237 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Gazetted Officers of various categories in the department of Agriculture, who belong to backward classes; and

(*b*) the total number of officers in the Agricultural Subordinate Service and the number belonging to backward classes in that service?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The total number of Gazetted Officers belonging to backward classes in the Agricultural Department is nine.

" (*b*) The total number of subordinates in the Madras Agricultural Subordinate Service is 1,958. Of these, 288 persons belong to the Backward classes."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" I think the Hon. Minister remembers that the Government has recently awarded the State Prize in the Paddy Crop Yield Competition to one Mr. A. Sankaranarayana Thevar of Ramanathapuram district who produced 11,255 lb. of paddy on one acre of land, while the average yield per acre in the State is 1,700 lb. As generally Backward Classes are experts in agriculture, will the Government be pleased to take in men from Backward Classes who possess the minimum qualification in preference to men from the forward classes who have only theoretical knowledge and no practical experience? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The hon. Member is aware that representation for Backward Classes can be given only in initial recruitment. Gazetted officers are generally promotees from among the subordinate ranks. For the posts of Demonstrators, only B.Sc. in Agriculture and above are recruited. I would like to tell the hon. Member that, for the schemes which I have been examining, there is a shortage of personnel and that, therefore, there should be no difficulty in recruiting any number of Backward Class B.Scs. in Agriculture if only they come forward."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister how many candidates from the Backward Communities applied in the recent direct recruitment to the cadre of District Agricultural Officers? Is it not a fact that three applicants from the Vanniyakula Kshatriya community were there and that not even one was selected even though they possessed the required minimum qualification? "

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" In the first place, I have no information. In the second place, I would like to tell the hon. Member that this question should be addressed to the Public Service Commission."

Manivilandan ex-servicemen land colony.

* 238 *Q.*—SRI M. P. SUBRAMANIAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Manivilandan ex-servicemen land colony was started in Salem district;

(*b*) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on that colony till 1st September 1953 by way of grants, loans and establishment charges;

(*c*) how many families were settled in the initial stages and how many there are at present; and

(*d*) how many acres are under actual cultivation?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) The Manivilandan Agricultural Co-operative Land Colonization Society for ex-servicemen started work on 7th December 1947.

" (*b*) An expenditure of Rs. 1,43,361–11–6 from Government advances has been incurred on the colony till 1st September 1953.

" (*c*) The Society started with 24 members. Nine members are actually cultivating the lands now.

" (*d*) 51·60 acres have been brought under cultivation up to 30th September 1953."

Expenditure incurred in the enforcement of the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Act XXXIII of 1951.

* 239 *Q.*—SRI K. MOIDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of money expended in employing officers and subordinates for the enforcement of the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Act XXXIII of 1951 before 15th March 1952 when the Act actually came into force; and

(*b*) if so, how the Government have appropriated this sum in the Budget?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) & (*b*) As the main operative provisions of the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1951 came into force only on 15th March 1952, the expenditure, if any, incurred in the enforcement of the Act prior to that date could only be a negligible amount. Information on this point is not readily available with Government.